

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2-32685
(1) page 4, upper right column, line 10

Then a procedure for performing white balance adjustment is explained with reference to Fig. 4. So-called stripe filter parallel to the vertical charge-transfer circuit is arranged on each detector cell of an imaging device in order to detect a primary color or a complimentary color. And then charged signals are read out in timing shown in Fig. 3 as same as processing light metering. Thus charged signals produced in the predetermined area A are accumulated in predetermined charge-transfer elements in a horizontal charge-transfer circuit 2 in a form integrated into respective colors in a time interval between t_0 and t_1 shown in Fig. 3. Moreover, the integrated signals into respective colors can be read out in a time interval between t_0 and t_1 shown in Fig. 3. For example, in Fig. 4 in which primary color filters R, G, and B are arranged, when a blue filter (B) is arranged in the $(k + i)$ -th column, integrated color signals regarding blue (B) element in the area of the $(k + j$ [sic]) $-$ th column between j -th and $(j + m)$ -th row are accumulated in the $(k + 1)$ -th charge-transfer element in the horizontal charge-transfer circuit 2.

Since these integrated signals represent respective color information in the predetermined area A arranged for white balance of an object, white balance can be preformed with high precision based on these integrated signals. Furthermore, since signals are read out at high speed as same as light metering, white balance adjustment can be performed a plurality of times within short time period, so that the precision of white balance can be improved.